

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 21, 2004. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of the Application. Claims 6, 7, and 16 have been amended to clarify, more particularly point out, and more distinctly claim inventive concepts previously present in these claims. These amendments are not considered necessary for patentability. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicant has responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and accompanying PTO-1449 form were submitted on January 8, 2003. The Examiner has not provided an indication that the submitted references were considered by the Examiner. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant has enclosed copies of the previously submitted IDS and PTO-1449 form. Additionally, Applicant has included a copy of the date-stamped postcard indicating the submission of the IDS on January 8, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the cited references, if not already considered, and provide the appropriate indication that they have been considered by initialing next to the references on the PTO-1449 form.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-4 and 5-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,023,726 to Saksena ("*Saksena*"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Saksena discloses a prefetch value or weight and a threshold value. (Abstract.) According to *Saksena*, a prefetch value of a link indicates the relevance in retrieving the link before the user asks for it. (Column 4, lines 22-29). *Saksena* states:

The client 201 uses the prefetch values 308 in the HTML document 306 or pathfile 309 to decide which links on the page are the most likely to be accessed by a typical user. It prefetches the number of documents that it has been configured for from the server 203 according to the threshold value that

the user configured on the client 201. Documents are prefetched that have prefetch values above the user-configured threshold value.

(Column 3, lines 57-64). That is, the client of *Saksena* compares the prefetch value of a link with a user-configured threshold value to determine whether to prefetch a document.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Saksena* fails to disclose, or even teach or suggest, the elements specifically recited in Applicant's claims. For example, *Saksena* fails to disclose, or even teach or suggest, "wherein each link further has a respective associated user weight," recited in Applicant's independent Claim 1. The Examiner argues that a user weight of Claim 1 is taught by the user defined threshold value of *Saksena*. (*Office Action*, page 3, paragraph 4). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

First, a weight is not a threshold value. A weight is a factor assigned to a number in a computation to make the number's effect on the computation reflect its importance, where a threshold is a point separating conditions that will produce a given effect from those of a higher or lower degree that will not produce the effect. (*American Heritage College Dictionary*, third edition, pages 1412, 1530.) As discussed above, the client of *Saksena* compares the prefetch value of a link with a user-configured threshold value to determine whether to prefetch a document. Clearly, the user-configured threshold value of *Saksena* is not a user weight. Claim 1 is allowable over *Saksena* for at least this reason.

Second, the passage of *Saksena* cited by the Examiner disclose a prefetch weight, but not any other type of weight. Accordingly, *Saksena* does not disclose, or even teach or suggest, a user weight that is used with a transaction weight. Claim 1 is allowable over *Saksena* for at least this reason.

Consequently, at a minimum, *Saksena* fails to disclose, or even teach or suggest, the user weight as recited in Applicant's claim. For at least these reasons, *Saksena* fails to disclose the elements specifically recited in Applicant's independent Claim 1.

Applicant's dependent claims are allowable based on their dependence on the independent claim and further because they recite numerous additional patentable

distinctions over the reference of the rejection. Because Applicant believes he has amply demonstrated the allowability of the independent claims over the reference of the rejection, and to avoid burdening the record, Applicant has not provided detailed remarks concerning these dependent claims. Applicant, however, remains ready to provide such remarks if it becomes appropriate to do so.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 1 and all claims that depend on this claim.

Independent Claims 16 and 24 recite certain limitations substantially similar to those recited in independent Claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons, Applicant also respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 16, together with its dependent claims, and independent Claim 24.

CONCLUSION

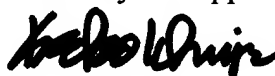
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Keiko Ichiye, the Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6494.

Although Applicant believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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